

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /084 W

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R 061313Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7618

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 00019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: AMENDMENT TO JORDANIAN MUNICIPAL ELECTION LAW

1. ACCORDING TO JAN 5 JERUSALEM POST ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WEST BANK MILITARY COMMAND HAS AMENDED JORDANIAN MUNICIPAL ELECTION LAW TO PERMIT WOMEN TO VOTE. AMENDMENT REPORTEDLY DELETES WORK "MALE" FROM JORDANIAN LAW THAT HAD ENFRANCHISED MALE RESIDENTS OVER AGE 21 WHO PAID MUNICIPAL TAXES.

2. POST ALSO REPORTS ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES ANNOUNCED THAT WEST BANK MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD ON APRIL 12. PERES IN QUOTED AS SAYING MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CHECK POLITICAL BELIEFS OF CANDIDATES NOR INTERFERE IN ELECTION LISTS, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST MEMBERS OF ANTI-ISRAELI GROUPS. IN PRACTICE, HE SAID, MEMBERS OF "HOSTILE ARAB ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY GROUPS BELONGING TO THE PLO" WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RUN FOR OFFICE. (SINCE PLO IS ILLEGAL ORGANIZATION ON WEST BANK, MEMBERSHI IS CLANDESTINE IN ANY EVENT.)

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3. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN 24 TOWNS THROUGHOUT WEST BANK,

INCLUDING NABLUS, HEBRON, BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH, JERICHO, JENIN, TULKARM, QALQILIA AND SMALLER MUNICIPALITIES. CANDIDATES WILL CONTEST FOR 211 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SEATS. COUNCILS WILL IN TURN ELECT THE MAYORS.

4. ACCORDING TO BETHLEHEM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER, BOTH PLO AND JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN RECRUITING CANDIDATES AND MUSTERING SUPPORT FOR THEM. HOWEVER, JAN 5 AL-QUDS CARRIED AMMAN PRESS REPORT THAT JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALLEGEDLY REFUSED PERMISSION FOR WEST BANKERS WHO ARE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO RUN IN COMING WEST BANK MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORT IN LOCAL ARABIC DAILY INDICATED MAYOR OF HEBRON SHEIKH JA-ABARI WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN COMING ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF FAILING HEALTH. PAPER ALLEGES JA-ABARI'S SON, WALID, WILL RUN INSTEAD.

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